

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:

an instrument handle having a front end and a rear end;

a tube shaft having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, wherein the
~~linked to a proximal end portion is linked to the rear end of the instrument handle; and of~~
~~a tube shaft, the tube shaft having a distal end portion linked to~~

an instrument head, wherein the instrument head is linked to the distal end portion,

so as to allow the instrument head to bend relative to the tube shaft, the instrument head
further comprising a rotatably supported effector having at least one pivotable engaging
element,

wherein the instrument handle includes ~~having~~ a plurality of manipulators and/or
operating mechanisms for operating the instrument head and/or the effector, wherein a
first manipulator further comprises an operating element having the shape of a rotary knob
and being rotatably supported at the front end of ~~on~~ the instrument handle, and wherein
the instrument handle is pivotally supported at the tube shaft via a pivot shaft, such that
the instrument handle is aligned so as to be laterally offset with respect to the tube shaft.

2. (Previously Presented) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the instrument handle forms an operating mechanism for bending the instrument head with respect to the tube shaft.
3. (Previously Presented) A surgical instrument according to claim 2, wherein the instrument handle is constructively pivotable past a parallel position with respect to the tube shaft.
4. (Previously Presented) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first manipulator in the shape of a rotary knob is rotatably arranged at a distal end portion of a handle member of the instrument handle and wherein the first manipulator is inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis of the instrument handle.
5. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 4, wherein the inclination of the rotary knob relative to the instrument handle is at an angle of approximately 20° to 25°.
6. (Previously Presented) A surgical instrument according to claim 2, wherein the first manipulator in the shape of a rotary knob is rotatably arranged at a distal end portion of a handle member of the instrument handle and wherein the first manipulator is inclined with respect to the longitudinal axis of the instrument handle.

7. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first manipulator forms the distal tip of the instrument handle.
8. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 7, wherein the first manipulator is adapted to be operated by the fingers of a human hand.
9. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first manipulator is operatively connected, via a gear train, to the effector.
10. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 9, wherein rotation of the first manipulator rotates the gear train which rotates the effector relative to the instrument head.
11. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein a lever-shaped manipulator is arranged at a longitudinal side of the instrument handle and is pivotable relative to the instrument handle and operatively connected, via a gear train, to the effector.
12. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 11, wherein the lever-shaped manipulator is adapted to operate the effector.

13. (Original) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the instrument handle has an ergonomically shaped handle member on which the manipulators and/or operating mechanisms of the instrument handle are supported.

14. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:
an instrument handle having a front end and a rear end;
a tube shaft having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, wherein the
~~linked to a proximal end portion is linked to the rear end of the instrument handle; and of~~
~~a tube shaft, the tube shaft having a distal end portion linked to~~
an instrument head, wherein the instrument head is linked to the distal end portion,
so as to allow the instrument head to bend relative to the tube shaft, the instrument head
further comprising a rotatably supported effector having at least one pivotable engaging
element,
wherein the instrument handle includes ~~having~~ a plurality of manipulators and/or
operating mechanisms for operating the instrument head and/or the effector, wherein a
first manipulator further comprises an operating element having the shape of a rotary knob
and being rotatably supported at the front end of ~~on~~ the instrument handle opposite to the
linkage with the tube shaft, and wherein the instrument handle is ~~pivotably linked to the~~
~~tube shaft at the proximal end portion and~~ forms an operating mechanism for bending the
instrument head with respect to the tube shaft, ~~and wherein the first manipulator in the~~
~~shape of a rotary knob is rotatably arranged at a distal, free end portion of a handle~~
~~member of the instrument handle which distal end portion is located opposite to the~~

~~linkage with the tube shaft.~~

15. (New) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the first manipulator is adapted to be operated by the fingers of a human hand while the instrument handle is held fast in the hand.

16. (New) A surgical instrument according to claim 1, wherein rotation of the instrument handle does not necessarily cause rotation of the first manipulator.